Study of Pollution likely to be caused by Gas-based Industries linked by H.B. J. Pipeline

325. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study of the magnitude of pollutions likely to be caused by the gas-based-industries linked by H.B.J. pipeline have been conducted; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The pollution problems which may arise out of the gas based industries linked to H.B.J. pipeline have been studied on a case to case basis. Four such fertilizer plants and one Petro-chemicals Complex have been cleared from environmental angle after examination.

Bonded Labour

326. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labour freed during the last one year in the country; and

(b) the number of those who have so far been rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) As per information received from the State Governments, 13362 bonded labourers were identified and freed in the country during 1986-87 and 1899 bonded labourers have been identified and freed during April to September, 1987.

(b) As per available information furnished by the State Governments 2,21,184 bonded labourers have been identified as on 30-9-87 from the inception of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Out of these 1,90,793 have been rehabilitated as on 30-9-87.

Loans to Mineral Industry from the Financial Institutions

327. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while other industries are allowed loans from Financial Institutions, mineral industry is not given this facility, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that India's mineral exports can go up if the industry is given incentives by Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the mining activity including development of mines is eligible for assistance from IDBI under the IDBI Act, 1964. Financial assistance is available to the mining and related activities on the same terms and conditions as applicable to other industries.

In order to provide incentives to the industrial concerns for improving their export performance, the institutions introduced a new scheme effective from 1st December, 1986, under which, any assisted unit which can achieve export sales of 25 per cent or above in relation to its total sales of own manufactured goods in a year would be entitled to rebate of 20 per cent of its interest payments on rupee loans provided by the institutions on or after 1st December, 1986. Such interest rebate is, however, subject to the floor interest rate of 10 per cent p.a. on the relative loan.